

## Chesterfield / Colonial Heights

# Inside CSA

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### CSA Contact Info

Karen Reilly-Jones-CSA Coordinator  
(804) 768-7387

Jane Lanham-CSA Specialist  
(804) 751-4797

Kristi Schabo-School Services Manager  
(804) 717-6901

Lynne Sims-Administrative Assistant  
(804) 717-6114

Malinda Bowers-Sr. Administrative Analyst  
(804) 706-2877

CSA Intern  
(804) 768-7266

## Spotlight on Success

### What is the ultimate success?

Does it depend on what you believe in, what you do, how much it costs, how you get it done? Does it depend on where you "sit", who pays you, who thinks it is the best idea?

Maybe it depends on what or whom you are asking? Let us look at it from that perspective. Those of you reading this newsletter either work with youth and families or are the youth and families of our community. It is therefore to you, the reader we ask - what is the ultimate success?

Perhaps the Department of Social Services (DSS) would define their success as having youth in our community live with families where they feel connected and are safe. This month we will highlight one truly exciting avenue of successful connection - **ADOPTION!**

We want to highlight the success of our local Department of Social Services in having 28 adoption finalizations in the last 18 months! **THAT IS 28 YOUTH IN PERMANENT HOMES - THAT IS SUCCESS!**

At FAPT meetings our teams hear about many youth that are involved with our local Department of Social Services that have various permanency goals. We learn of youth that are new to foster care with the goal of returning home. While this may be the ultimate goal, there may be things that prevent that from happening. We also work with children and teens whose biological families have had their parental rights terminated and have been in the foster care system for years. For many of these youth adoption then becomes their goal.

Adoption planning is done by DSS staff in collaboration with Children's Home Society of Virginia, AREVA (Adoption Resource Exchange of Virginia) and other adoption agencies/resources.

Allison Rothschild, DSS Adoption Social Worker on the Permanency Services Team, is an instrumental piece in this process. While she attributes this great number to "random wonderful happenings", and a great team of people who work alongside her. We here in CSA know the hard, creative, multi-faceted, professional service and hard work it takes to have

this success and we want to acknowledge that great work!

The circumstances of many adoptions are varied to include adoption of sibling sets, teenagers, and children with special needs. We don't often focus on finalized adoptions in the FAPT process because support services are handled through DSS post adoption. However, the success of adoption is felt by many who played a part in supporting the child on the road to adoption. When a child is adopted, all community partners have reason to celebrate.

**Congratulations to the 28 youth and their lucky new families!!!**



### VALUES

The Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Community Policy and Management Team believes the family and home community provides the best environment for raising children and that collaborative activities ensure best service provision.

### CSA MISSION

Our mission is to preserve families by providing community-based services for at risk youth.

### CSA VISION

To ensure the provision of child-centered, family-focused, community-based services.

## SOC UPDATE

### **Chesterfield/Colonial Heights System of Care Mission:**

*To promote a comprehensive system of community based care that strengthens families through collaborative efforts.*

### **NEW! Chesterfield/Colonial Heights System of Care Vision:**

*To be champions for a system of care that drives community practices which promote healthy, productive families within our communities.*

### **NEW! Chesterfield/Colonial Heights System of Care Guiding Principles:**

1. We will protect the rights of all children and families and promote their right to advocate for themselves.

2. We will practice shared responsibility through integrated services among child-serving agencies.

3. We will practice true partnerships with families to provide individualized services for each child and family.

4. We will promote the delivery of services and supports within the least restrictive environment.

5. We will ensure that services are integrated at the system level.

6. We will incorporate prevention, early identification, and intervention supports in effort to improve long-term outcomes.

7. We will practice continuous quality improvement accountability.

We are moving along! The SOC Steering Committee has adopted its values and guiding principles. I am happy to share them with our community. Sharing values and guiding principles are at the heart of what we practice and keep us focused on what our work is really all about. In the coming months we are striving to develop system goals and objectives to provide accountability to our mission and vision. We look forward to completing this task and sharing with the rest of our community partners in the near future. If you have any thoughts or questions, please feel free to contact me at 768-7387 or [reillyk@chesterfield.gov](mailto:reillyk@chesterfield.gov).

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## CSA BASICS

### **Changes to Local financial contributions for CSA services**

We are where the rubber meets the road when it comes to providing services to citizens. Local government has the closest relationship with its' citizens compared to state and federal government. It is here, where citizens and staff work together in efforts to provide quality and effective services for the public good. In the past two years we have seen a drastic financial cut to local government impacting citizens' services. Chesterfield and Colonial Heights CSA, through the efforts of community agencies and committed FAPT members, has been able to continually provide needed services for youth and families at the same time being fiscally prudent. As a result the CSA has preformed under budget for two years and was able to support the County in tight fiscal times.

In 2008, the state passed policies to encourage localities to utilize community based services in lieu of residential services using financial incentives and disincentives to local government. For example, prior to 2008 services through CSA were split based on an established formula between the state and local government funds regardless of the type of service (education, foster care, residential, etc.). The new policies changed the formula based on the type of service FAPT approved and CSA funded. Now, all residential services (including group homes) yield a higher local match rate and community based services a lower local match. The philosophy behind the change is to promote less restrictive and early service intervention and planning. Sound familiar? (Hint: System of Care)

For some communities, this policy change was a deviance from how they practiced. Many localities around the state were not equipped to take on doing things differently and suffered greatly with job losses and over budgeting. However, Chesterfield /Colonial Heights had been moving in the community based direction already and shared the philosophy that we can serve children and families better in the community. We also were fortunate to have a strong provider base in the central Virginia area to support our service needs. Due to these positive factors we have been able to support youth and families in the community without having to rely on out of home placements as a primary source of intervention. Our community should be proud of the work being done to support families and youth in the least restrictive settings; their homes. In addition to being good stewards of the public trust by choosing appropriate community based intervention, community partners are promoting and collaborating for services earlier which has lead to an increase of positive outcomes for children and families.

## THE FACES OF FAPT-JENNIFER UNDERWOOD



**Explain your role on FAPT.** I currently serve as the Court Service Unit representative on the **GREEN** team. I try to share my knowledge of the Probation/Parole/Intake units as well as the court process in general to my team members and the families we serve.

**How long have you been a FAPT member for Chesterfield/Colonial Heights?** According to my calendar (I save them all!)...it looks like I started serving as a Chesterfield FAPT member in May 2003, I can't believe it's really been 7 years! I also sat as a substitute on a couple of FAPT meetings in Colonial Heights, which was a great experience, too!

**How did you get involved with FAPT?** I started out serving on the Spotsylvania County, FAPT when I was a probation officer in Spotsylvania (near Fredericksburg). I then moved back home to Chesterfield and started working as a probation officer in Chesterfield in October of 2002. After about 6 months I landed on the Chesterfield FAPT-the **GREEN** team, which clearly is the team that ROCKS!

**What do you like about being on FAPT?** A lot-it's good to get out of the office once in awhile! But I find the networking with other agencies and private providers to be the most valuable. Now that I'm a Supervisor, I don't typically do case management anymore. But sitting on FAPT allows me to keep knowledgeable about the services available by listening and learning from the other FAPT members as well as case managers bringing cases. Like all FAPT members, I enjoy the cases where we can see a youth and their family, grow and make progress-that's really rewarding.

**What is your best and/or favorite FAPT success story?** Without being too specific, I think it would have to be a case I supervised that involved a young man that sexually assaulted his sibling. FAPT was instrumental in providing residential treatment and then a step-down placement. This youth with the help of FAPT and a very supportive mother, was able to return home and was ultimately released from probation successfully!

**What is your favorite FAPT office holiday decoration?** I have to say **CHRISTMAS**-It's my favorite holiday anyway!



### DID YOU KNOW.....

- Martin's Pharmacy will provide prescriptions for 37 different generic antibiotics free of charge with a store bonus card. See Martin's Pharmacy for a detailed list of medications available.
- The New-Well Fund provides low interest loans up to \$30,000 for the purchase of assistive technology. These loans can be used for: wheelchairs, motorized scooters, AT training, repair of already purchased devices, hearing aids, augmentative communication devices, vehicle modifications, home modifications, ramps, recreational equipment and prosthetics. To learn more go to: [www.newwellfund.org](http://www.newwellfund.org)

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**FAPT Mini-Training**  
**December 1, 2010**

## Meet Our Staff-Lynne Sims



### Title and What do you do in CSA

Queen – a little bit of everything, working with vendors, purchase orders and invoice, making sure paperwork is in order, keeping up client files.

### How long have you worked

### for the county and in CSA?

I have been with the county for 15 years, and officially in the CSA for 5 years, although I have helped out with CSA for 10 years or more.

### What is something that you are proud about that you accomplished in your job?

Being able to work as a team to accomplish the mission of the CSA office. Our team is what I am most proud of.

### What is your favorite thing about your job?

Decorating the office for the different holidays

### What do you like to do for fun?

As anyone who knows me will say, music is a big part of my life, particularly that of Rick Springfield and I travel the country attending his shows, even cruising with him for the last two years.

### What is something that you are proud about that you accomplished in your personal life?

Giving, whenever and however I

can. I guess I am most proud to be my daddy's daughter. When people that knew my dad tell me I am just like him, that's when I am the proudest. My dad was a totally awesome man and to be even just a shadow of what he was is an amazing compliment.

### What is your favorite FAPT office decoration and why?

Definitely Christmas, but Halloween and St Patty's day run neck and neck in a close second.